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Appl. No. 10/807,211 Amdt. Dated Jan.19, 2006 Reply to Office Action of November 8, 2005

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 18 and 20, and canceled claims 3 and 17.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Baba (US 6,644,824), Applicant has amended claim 1 and has cancelled claim 3.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claim 3 had set forth allowable subject matter, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 therein. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Further, Applicant submits dependent claims 4, 5, 7, and 11-13 based on their dependency on claim 1, are now also in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Baba (US 6,644,824) in view of Hanson et al (US 6,685,328), Applicant respectfully traverses as follows.

Claim 2 depends directly from claim 1, which is in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 2 is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Responsive to the rejection of claims 16 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanson et al (US 6,685,328), Applicant has amended claim 16 and has canceled claim 17.

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claim 17 had set forth allowable subject matter, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. Applicant has amended claim 16 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17 therein. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 16, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

Further, Applicant submits dependent claim 20 based on their dependency on claim 16, are now also in condition for allowance.

Additionally, Applicant submits that US 6,685,328 (published on February 3, 2004) should be a 102(e) reference for rejecting claims 16 and 20 instead of a 102(b) reference because it is published less than one year prior to the filing date of the present patent application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 14, 15 and 19 are allowed and that claims 3, 6, 8-10, 17 and 18 set forth allowable subject matter, for which consideration the Examiner is respectfully thanked.

Claims 3 and 17 have been cancelled, the subject matter thereof, instead having been fully respectively incorporated into claims 1 and 16, as set forth above. Applicant hereby submits that claims 6, 8-10, 18 and 20 are now in

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condition for allowance, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as defined in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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